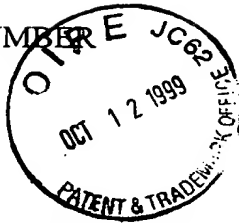


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PATENT  
09/195,332

GAU 2764  
#7  
10-19-99  
P.2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Vibhu K. Kalyan  
Serial No.: 09/195,332  
Filing Date: November 18, 1998  
Group Art Unit: 2764  
Examiner: Nga B. Nguyen  
Title: *COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED PRODUCT  
VALUATION TOOL*

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 1999  
GROUP 2700

Assistant Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this  
correspondence is being deposited with  
the United States Postal Service as first  
class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date  
shown below.

Betty McLeod  
Name

10-6-99  
Date

Dear Sir:

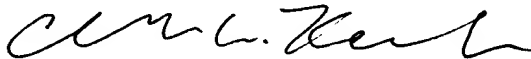
**LETTER RE INCOMPLETE OFFICE ACTION**

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the Office Action mailed August 31, 1999. However, the Office Action is incomplete. Specifically, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on August 10, 1999 (copy attached). Mailing of this IDS is evidenced by the certificate of mailing. Thus, the IDS was filed prior to issuance of the Office Action.

Applicants recognize that the IDS may not have reached the desk of the Examiner as of the date the Office Action was issued. Nevertheless, since the filing of the IDS predates the issuance of the Office Action, Applicants are entitled to have the IDS considered on the merits in the first Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner (1) withdraw the outstanding Office Action, (2) consider on the merits the art submitted with the IDS, and (3) issue a new Office Action which takes into account the art submitted with the IDS. Applicants also respectfully request that the shortened statutory period for a response be restarted on the date the new Office Action is mailed.

BAKER & BOTTS, L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants



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(214) 953-6812

Date: 10/6/99

Enclosures: Copy of August 10, 1999 IDS